

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS 10117 PRINCESS PALM AVENUE, SUITE 120 TAMPA, FLORIDA 33610

Tampa Permits Section

December 10, 2008

PUBLIC NOTICE

Permit Application No. SAJ-2008-4054(IP-TEH)

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: This district has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1344) as described below:

APPLICANT:

Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners

440 Court Street

Clearwater, Florida 33756

WATERWAY & LOCATION: The project is located within a tributary of Curlew Creek within Section 19 of Township 28 South and Range 16 East in unincorporated Clearwater, Pinellas County, Florida.

Directions to the site are as follows: Drive approximately 5/8 mile north of the U.S. Highway 19 overpass of State Road 580. The project meanders along the southern border of Serendipity Mobile Home Park which has an entrance that may be accessed via Royal Boulevard. The project starts 200 feet east of U.S. Highway 19 right-of-way and runs eastward within the affected tributary for approximately 1,100 feet.

LATITUDE & LONGITUDE: Latitude 28.034252 North Longitude 82.737338 West

PROJECT PURPOSE:

Basic: Bank stabilization.

Overall: Bank stabilization to prevent bank failure that may endanger three residences within Serendipity Mobile Home Park.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to construct a project known as "Curlew Creek Channel M Erosion Protection", consisting of 650 linear feet of gabion basket installation. The gabion baskets on the north bank will extend to the top-of-bank at

a 1:1 slope. The gabion baskets on the south bank will extend to the 10-year flood elevation at a 1:2 slope. Gabion mattresses will also be installed along the bottom of the creek.

Avoidance and Minimization Information: The applicant has provided the following information in support of efforts to avoid and/or minimize impacts to the aquatic environment:

"The creek will remain an open channel section. Establishment of a stable natural slope along the northern bank is not possible due to the proximity of residences at the TOB. baskets provide the only secure method of stabilization which does not involve box culverting or sheet piling. The gabion mattress along the creek bottom and the gabion baskets along the southern bank up to the 10 year flood elevation are necessary to alleviate ongoing stream incision and TOS erosion which have led to repeated bank failures. Due to the ongoing erosion the channel bottom is devoid of vegetation. The lower bank elevation vegetation is dominated by exotics due to the ongoing disturbances. Following project completion the stabilized creek section will deliver a greatly reduced sediment load to downstream reaches. Supporting habitat for the creek will be improved through elimination of exotics in the upland area south of the creek which is controlled by Pinellas County. should be captured in the gabion mattress and the gabion baskets in the lower portions of the banks, which will then provide the same functions as the existing channel but without the ongoing erosion."

Compensatory Mitigation: The applicant has offered the following compensatory mitigation plan to offset unavoidable functional loss to the aquatic environment:

"The impacts proposed (gabions) are generally considered temporary in nature as they will allow the capture of sediments within the void spaces and subsequent vegetation recruitment. Although the reduction in sediment generation and downstream transport could arguably be said to offset the temporary impacts, to improve the habitat values of the subject creek section the removal of exotics within the forested upland corridor south of the creek is proposed. Exotic vegetation to be controlled includes ear tree, Brazilian pepper, Chinaberry, castorbean and air potato."

EXISTING CONDITIONS: The wetland system consists of a freshwater system. The on-site vegetation consists of (within channel banks) - taro, brazilian pepper, air potato, weidelia, boston fern, castorbean, elderberry, cinnamon fern. Upland area - slash pine, live oak, laurel oak associated with the aforementioned exotics. The existing area surrounding the project area consists of residential development with the exception of the narrow forested corridor directly adjacent the southern creek bank.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined the proposal would have no effect on any listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat.

 $\overline{\text{NOTE}}$: This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This information has not been verified or evaluated to ensure compliance with laws and regulation governing the regulatory program. The jurisdictional line has not been verified by Corps personnel.

<u>AUTHORIZATION FROM OTHER AGENCIES</u>: The Southwest Florida Water Management District is currently evaluating application number 44022145.002.

Comments regarding the application should be submitted in writing to the District Engineer at the above address within 21 days from the date of this notice.

If you have any questions concerning this application, you may contact Tracy Hurst at the letterhead address, by electronic mail at Tracy.E.Hurst@usace.army.mil, by fax at 813-769-7061, or by telephone at 813-769-7063.

The decision whether to issue or deny this permit application will be based on the information received from this public notice and the evaluation of the probable impact to the associated wetlands. This is based on an analysis of the applicant's avoidance and minimization efforts for the project, as well as the compensatory mitigation proposed.

IMPACT ON NATURAL RESOURCES: Preliminary review of this application indicates that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be required. Coordination with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Marine Fisheries Services, and other Federal, State, and local agencies, environmental groups, and concerned citizens generally yields pertinent environmental information that is instrumental in determining the impact the proposed action will have on the natural resources of the area. By means of this notice, we are soliciting comments on the potential effects of the project on threatened or endangered species or their habitat

IMPACT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES: Review of the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that no registered properties or properties listed as eligible for inclusion therein are located at the site of the proposed work. Presently, unknown archaeological, scientific, pre-historical, or historical data may be lost or destroyed by the work to be accomplished.

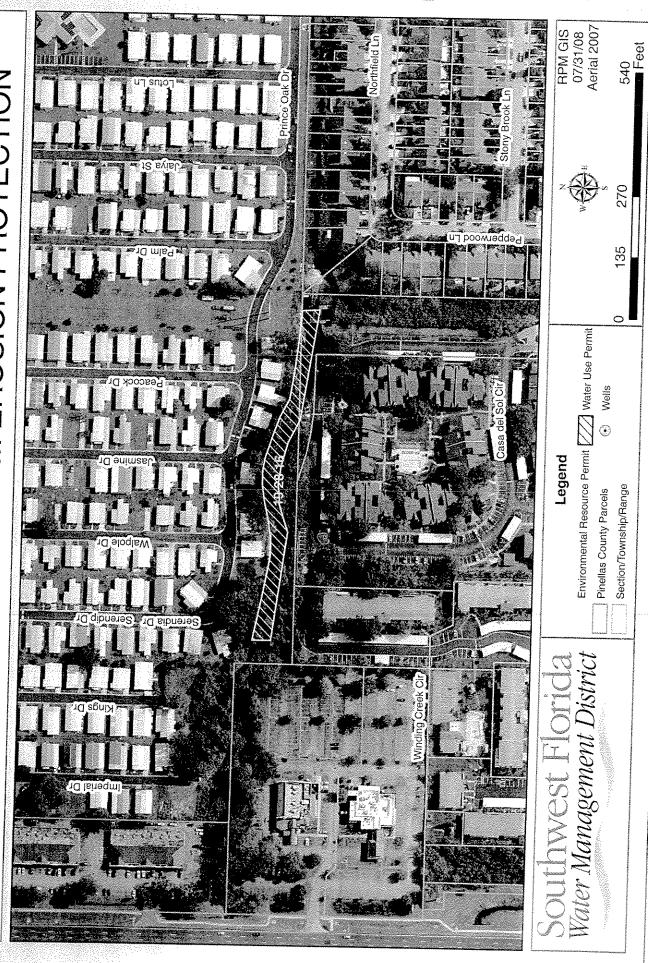
EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of Important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable deterrents. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including cumulative Impacts thereof; among these are conservation, economics, esthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historical properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food, and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public Interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act of the criteria established under authority of Section 102(a) of the Marine, Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest The US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other Interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the 'Impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make or deny this decision, comments are used to assess Impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT CONSISTENCY: In Florida, the State approval constitutes compliance with the approved Coastal Zone Management Plan. In Puerto Rico, a Coastal Zone Management Consistency Concurrence is required from the Puerto Rico Planning Board, In the Virgin Islands, the Department of Planning and Natural Resources permit constitutes compliance Coastal Zone Management Plan.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within the designated comment period of the notice and must state the specific reasons for requesting the public hearing.

David S. Hobbie Regulatory Division

CURLEW CREEK CHANNEL M EROSION PROTECTION 44022145.002



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PINELLAS COUNTY MAP

PINELLAS COUNTY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT STATE OF FLORIDA

CURLEW CREEK CHANNEL "M"

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RELATED STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS

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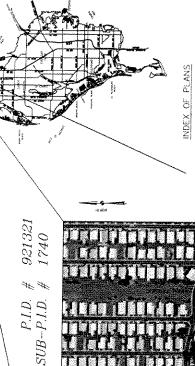
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DETAILS
EROSION PROTECTION PLAN
STORMMATER PROTECTION PLAN 2-3 4 5-8 5-8 9-(2 13-17 18 19-20 21-22

VICINITY MAP

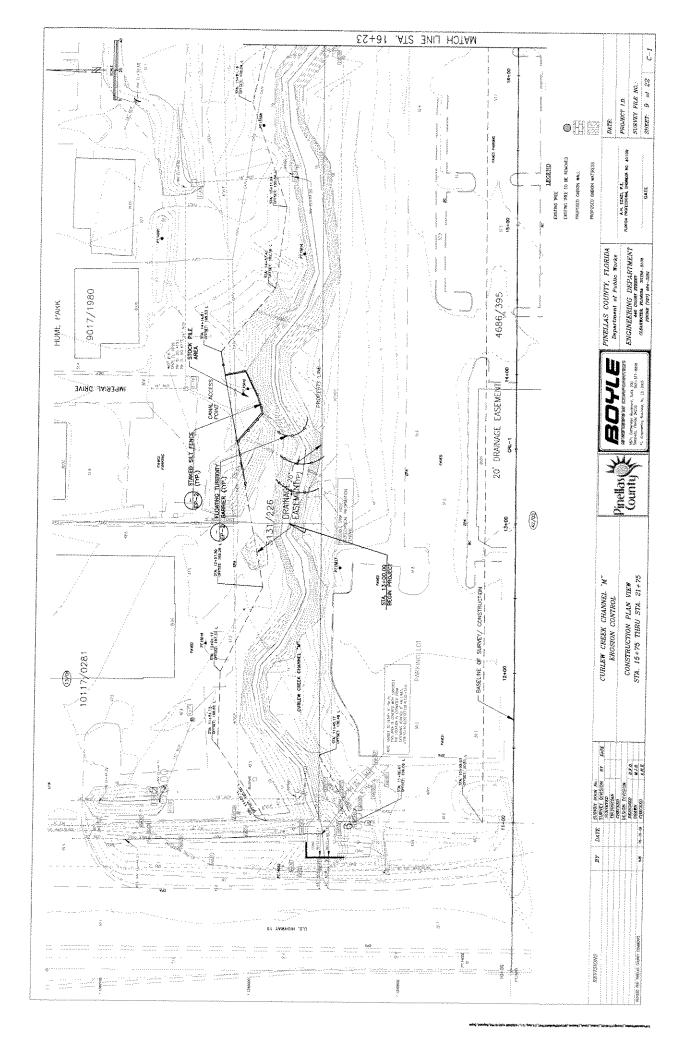
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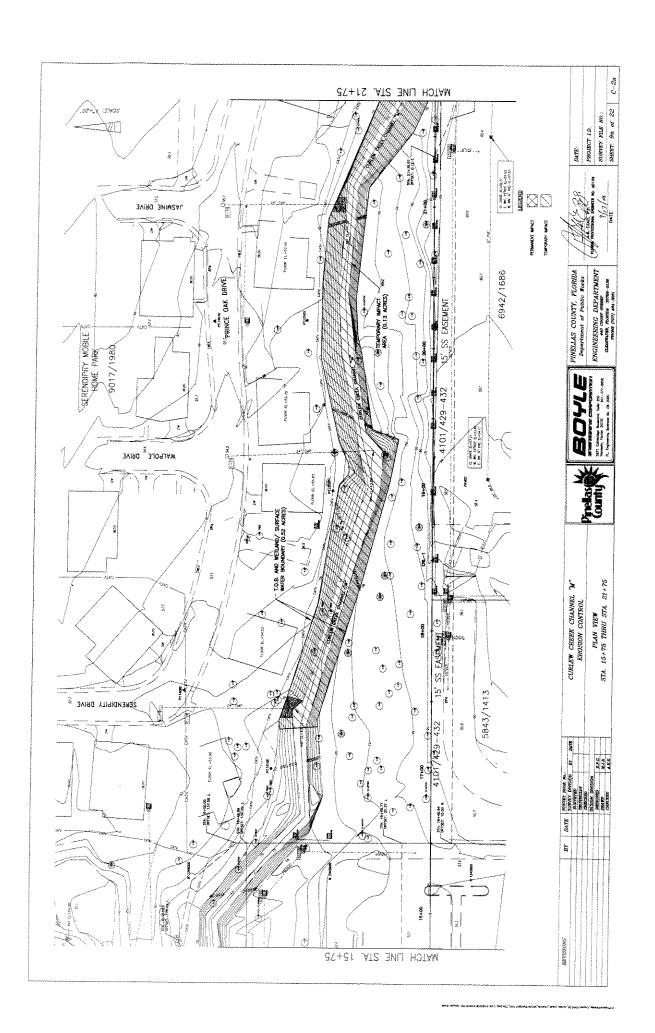
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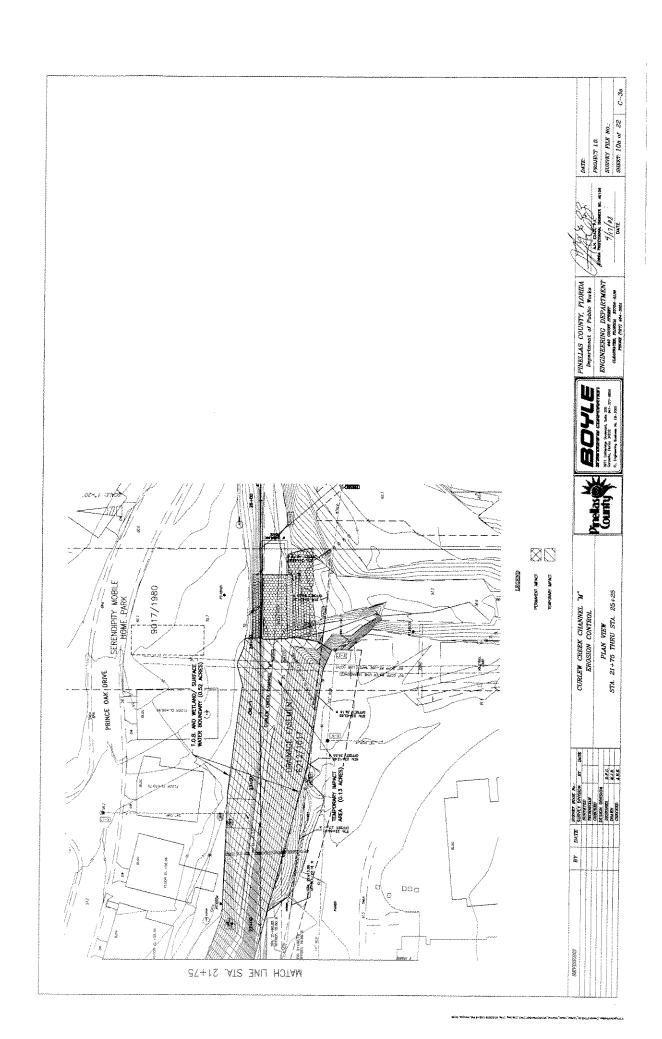
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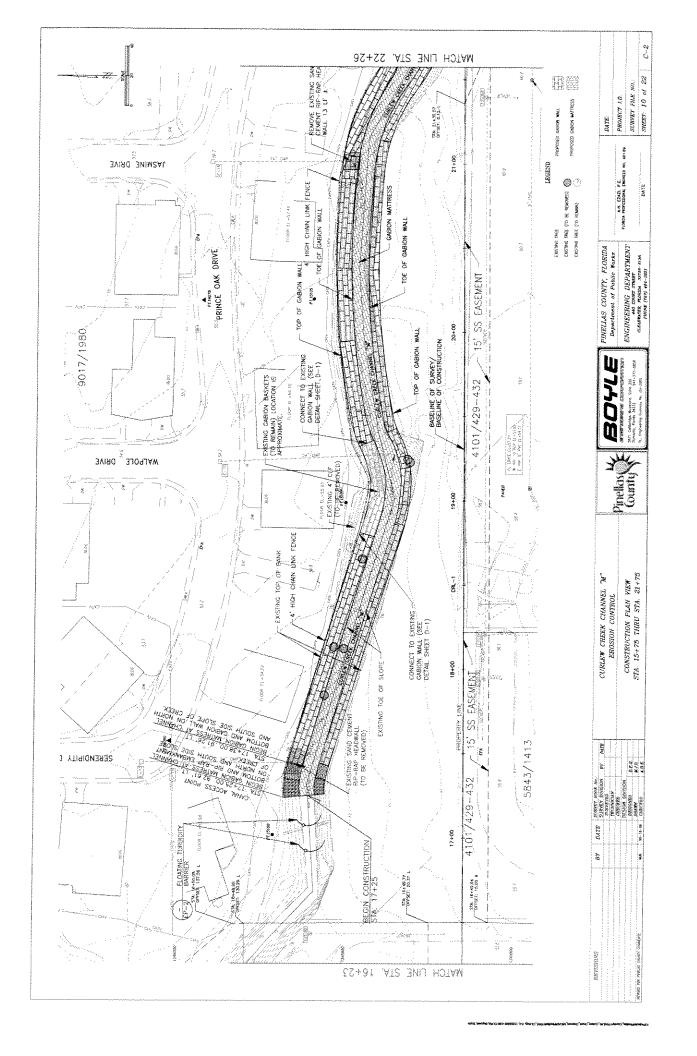
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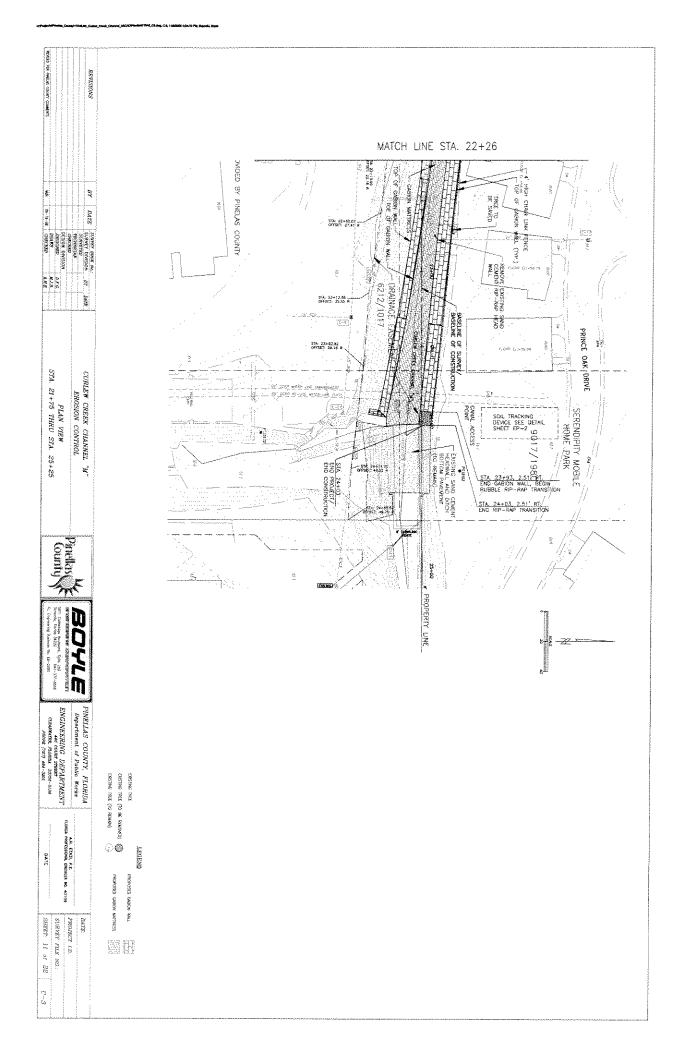


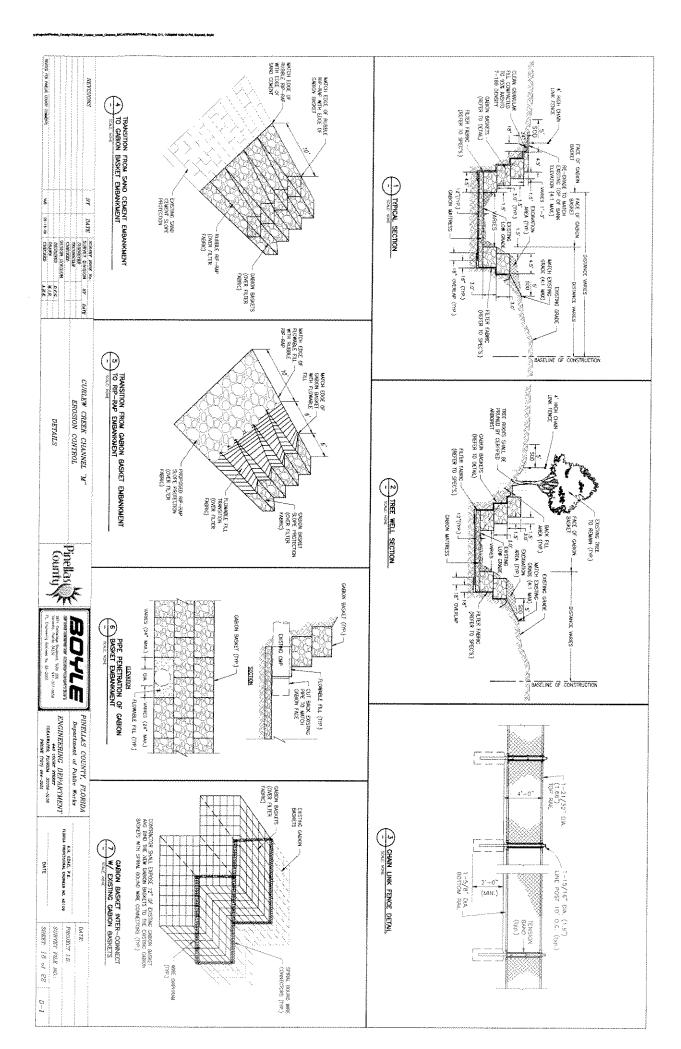






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